

204 State St. P. O. Box 9
Baraga, MI 49908

(906) 353 - 6644 Fax (906) 353 - 7550

Baraga Telephone Co.

November 28, 2011

The Honorable Mike Nofs, Chairman
Senate Energy & Technology Committee
Michigan State Senate
PO Box 30036
Lansing, MI 48906

Dear Chairman Nofs and Committee Members:

The Baraga Telephone Company supports SB 499 and urges you to pass this legislation. The Baraga Telephone Company was one of the first companies in Michigan to offer broadband services to its customers. This bill would be another step toward having complete coverage of our rural areas with advanced broadband infrastructure.

While this bill is not a "cure all" it will certainly help us to enlarge our fiber optic cable networks in certain areas with reasonable costs. Maintenance of fiber optic cable is minimal and any maintenance activity on a given trail would only be needed in case of a problem with the cable. Routine inspections are usually not done by our company.

Please contact me or Jennifer Greenburg of TAM (517-482-4166) if you have any questions. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Paul Stark
pwstark@up.net

President and General Manager, Baraga Telephone Company